

U.S. NEWS



A worker removes oil that has washed ashore from the Deepwater Horizon spill, Sunday, June 6, 2010 in Grand Isle, La..

(AP Photo/Eric Gay)

1 step forward, 1 step back: spill may go til fall

By RAY HENRY and JAY REEVES,

Associated Press Writers

NEW ORLEANS – The cap over a blown-out oil well is capturing more and more of the crude pouring into the Gulf of Mexico, but that bit of hope was tempered Sunday by a sharp dose of pragmatism as the federal government's point man warned the crisis could stretch into the fall.

The inverted funnel-like cap is being closely watched for whether it can make a serious dent in the flow of new oil. Coast Guard Adm.

Thad Allen, overseeing the government's response to the spill, reserved judgment, saying he didn't want to risk offering false encouragement. Instead, he warned on CBS' "Face the Nation" that the battle to contain the oil is likely to stretch into the fall. The cap will trap only so much of the oil, and relief wells being drilled won't be completed until August. In the meantime, oil will continue to spew out. "But even after that, there will be oil out there for months to come," Allen said.

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Ohio tornado kills 7, wrecks cop cars, graduation



Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland views tornado damage in Millbury, Ohio Sunday, June 6, 2010. Authorities say tornadoes and thunderstorms that swept through the Midwest overnight killed a number of people in Ohio, destroyed 50 homes and damaged a high school gymnasium where graduation was to be held Sunday.

(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

By JOHN SEEWER and MEGHAN BARR, Associated Press Writers
MILLBURY, Ohio – A tornado

unleashed a "war zone" of destruction in northwest Ohio, destroying dozens of homes and an emergency services building as a line of storms killed at least seven people and threatened to do more damage Sunday as it hit

Dutch murder suspect wants lawyer in Peru

This image from security footage provided by the Lima police allegedly shows Joran van der Sloot, left, and Stephany Flores as they enter his hotel room May 30, 2010.

(AP Photo/Lima Police Handout)

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This still image from a live BP video feed shows oil gushing from a leaking BP oil well-pipe in the Gulf of Mexico, June 5. Engineers are searching for ways to capture more oil flowing from a ruptured well in the Gulf of Mexico after energy giant BP said a cap was currently catching around 10,000 barrels a day

BP OIL

Continued from Front Page

"This will be well into the fall. This is a siege across the entire Gulf. This spill is holding everybody hostage, not only economically but physically. And it has to be attacked on all fronts," he said.

Since it was placed over the busted well on Thursday, the cap has been siphoning an increasing amount of oil. On

Saturday, it funneled about 441,000 gallons to a tanker on the surface, up from about 250,000 gallons it captured Friday.

But it's not clear how much is still escaping from the well that federal authorities at one point estimated was leaking between 500,000 gallons and 1 million gallons a day. Since the spill began nearly seven weeks ago, roughly 23 million

to 49 million gallons of oil have leaked into the Gulf.

The prospect that the crisis could stretch beyond summer was devastating to residents along the Gulf, who are seeing thicker globs of oil show up in increasing volume all along the coastline.

In Ruth Dailey's condominium in Gulf Shores, Ala., floors already are smeared with dark blotches of oil, she said, and things are only going to get worse.

"This is just the beginning," she said. "I have a beachfront condo for a reason. With this, no one will want to come."

Kelcey Forrestier, 23, of New Orleans, said she no longer trusts the word of either BP or the U.S. government in laying out the extent of the spill. But it is clear to Forrestier, just coming in off the water at Okaloosa Island, Fla., that the spill and its damage will last long into the future.

"Oil just doesn't go away. Oil doesn't disappear," said Forrestier, who just earned a biology degree. "It has to go somewhere and it's going to

come to the Gulf beaches."

BP chief executive Tony Hayward told the BBC on Sunday that he believed the cap was likely to capture "the majority, probably the vast majority" of the oil gushing from the well. The gradual increase in the amount being captured is deliberate, in an effort to prevent water from getting inside and forming a frozen slush that foiled a previous containment attempt. Allen was reluctant to characterize the degree of progress, saying much more had to be done.

"We need to underpromise and overdeliver," he said.

BP engineers must next try to close vents on the containment cap that are allowing oil to escape and preventing that water intake. Hayward told the BBC that the company hopes a second containment system will be in place by next weekend. Allen told CBS that the oil would stop flowing only when the leak was plugged with cement.

The cap was only the latest effort by BP PLC to attempt

to contain the leak since the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded 50 miles off the coast of Louisiana on April 20, killing 11 workers. In the past week, greater and greater quantities of thick oily sludge began making its way farther east, washing up on some of the region's hallmark white-sand beaches and coating marshes in black ooze.

Already, cleanup crews along the coast were struggling to keep pace with oil washing up thicker and faster by the hour. The sight and smell of oil undermined any consolation offered by reports of progress at the wellhead. Instead, Gulf residents voiced frustration with the apparent holes in cleanup efforts.

At Gulf Shores, Dailey walked along a line of oil mixed with seaweed that stretched as far as the eye could see. Collecting bits of the rust-colored oil did nothing to ease her anger. Clumps of seaweed hiding tar balls make the scene appear better than it really is, she said. Pick up a piece of weed and often there's oil underneath □







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NJ men accused of trying to join Somali terrorists

By **BRUCE SHIPKOWSKI**
and **MATT APUZZO**,
Associated Press Writer
ELMWOOD PARK, N.J.

— Two New Jersey men who talked about attacking Americans and sought to fight alongside terrorists in Somalia were arrested at a gate New York's Kennedy Airport as they were about to board a flight to leave the U.S. and join the al-Qaida-affiliated jihadists, authorities said.

Mohamed Mahmood Alessa, 20, and Carlos Eduardo Almonte, 26, were arrested Saturday before they could board separate flights to Egypt and then continue on to Somalia, federal officials in New Jersey and the New York Police Department said.

Law enforcement became aware of the men in the fall of 2006, after receiving a tip.

New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said they had traveled to Jordan in 2007 and tried to get into Iraq, but were turned back by their would-be recruiters. Since then, during the lengthy investigation, an NYPD undercover officer recorded conversations with the men in which they spoke about jihad against Americans.

"I leave this time. God willing, I never come back," authorities say Alessa told the officer last year. "Only way I would come back here is if I was in the land of jihad and the leader ordered me to come back here and do something here. Ah, I love that." Alessa also was allegedly recorded telling Almonte that he would outdo Maj. Nidal Hasan, the Army psychiatrist accused of killing 13 people at Fort Hood, Texas, last year.

"He's not better than me. I'll do twice what he did," Alessa allegedly said.

Kelly said Alessa, of North Bergen, and Almonte, of Elmwood Park, are American citizens. Alessa was born in the United States and is of Palestinian descent. Almonte is a naturalized citizen who was born in the Dominican Republic. They are the latest of many Americans or immigrants to the U.S. accused of joining or trying to join al-Shabab, a violent extremist

group based in Somalia and connected to al-Qaida. Al-Shabab was designated by the U.S. as a terrorist group in 2008.

Investigators say they're also among many U.S. terrorism suspects to have been inspired by two well-known U.S. citizens who have recruited terrorists through the Internet: Adam Gadahn, an al-Qaida spokesman in Pakistan, and Anwar al-Awlaki, believed to have helped inspire recent attacks including the Fort Hood shooting, the Times Square bombing attempt and the failed Christmas Day airline bombing. Both men have made public calls for smaller, single acts of terrorism and court documents show Alessa and Almonte appearing to be inspired by that idea.

Alessa and Almonte face charges of conspiring to kill, maim, and kidnap persons outside the United States by joining al-Shabab. Teams of state and federal law enforcement agents who have been investigating the men took them into custody, authorities said. They are scheduled to appear Monday in federal court in Newark.

While court documents paint a picture of two men deeply committed to terrorism, their training was apparently scattershot. They lifted weights, hiked in the snow at a local park, bought military-style pants and water bottles, played violent video games and watched terrorist videos online. They had no known connections to terrorist groups, and their trip to Somalia apparently amounted to a leap of faith that they'd be embraced by the group.

Court documents do not indicate that authorities had other targets in the investigation. In March, Alessa was recorded telling Almonte and the undercover officer that no one else they knew in New Jersey should be included in their plan to join al-Shabab because only the three of them were "serious about their plan and were preparing for it."

Kelly on Sunday cited the "excellent work" done by the undercover officer, who Kelly said was of Egyptian descent

and in his mid-20s. The officer joined the department in 2005.

The men said they planned to get weapons when they went abroad. The only weapons they possessed were two folding knives Alessa said he would use to kill police if they tried to get near him: "I'm-a cut them in half with it, even if I die," Alessa said, according to court documents.

Alessa and Almonte had planned their trip to Somalia for several months, saving thousands of dollars, officials said. Both had bragged about wanting to wage holy war against the United States both at home and internationally, according to a criminal complaint. Officials said the two men were not planning an imminent attack in the New York-New Jersey area and weren't suspected of plotting any violence on their flights. The two men knew early on they had come to the attention of law enforcement. By the end of 2006 agents had talked with Almonte and a family member, and in March 2007 the FBI conducted a consensual search of his computer, revealing documents advocating jihad against the perceived enemies of Islam, court papers show.

Last November, investigators recorded Alessa telling Almonte that lots of people needed to be killed.

"My soul cannot rest until I shed blood," Alessa said, according to court documents. "I wanna, like, be the world's known terrorist."

Almonte told the undercover officer in April that there would soon be American troops in Somalia, which he allegedly said was good because it would not be as gratifying to kill only Africans.

No one answered the door at Almonte's house and the blinds were drawn. A man who said he was Almonte's father walked into the home shortly before 1 p.m. with another man.

"I'm very confused by all this. He's my son," he said before he went inside. "I just don't understand it."

David Castro, 56, of Elmwood Park, is an Army reservist who lives across the street from



People are seen in the new JetBlue Airways Terminal 5 at John F. Kennedy International Airport during a terminal test in New York August 23, 2008.

REUTERS/Joshua Lott

Almonte. He said he doesn't know the suspect but knows his father and described the family as friendly. Terrorists' recruiting techniques "almost seem better

than the U.S. Army," Castro said. "This is happening not just in bad neighborhoods. This is happening in good neighborhoods like this one." □

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AP IMPACT: Many Gulf federal judges have oil links



An oil slick moves toward the beach in Gulf Shores, Ala., Saturday, June 5, 2010. Oil from the Deepwater Horizon disaster has started washing ashore on the Alabama and Florida coast beaches.

(AP Photo/Dave Martin)

By CURT ANDERSON,
AP Legal Affairs Writer

MIAMI — More than half of the federal judges in districts where the bulk of Gulf oil spill-related lawsuits are pending have financial connections to the oil and gas industry, complicating the

task of finding judges without conflicts to hear the cases, an Associated Press analysis of judicial financial disclosure reports shows.

Thirty-seven of the 64 active or senior judges in key Gulf Coast districts in Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, Mississippi

and Florida have links to oil, gas and related energy industries, including some who own stocks or bonds in BP PLC, Halliburton or Transocean — and others who regularly list receiving royalties from oil and gas production wells, according to the reports judges must file each year.

The AP reviewed 2008 disclosure forms, the most recent available.

Those three companies are named as defendants in virtually all of the 150-plus lawsuits seeking damages, mainly for economic losses in the fishing, seafood, tourism and related industries, that have been filed over the growing oil spill since the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig exploded April 20, killing 11 workers.

Attorneys for the companies and those suing them are pushing for consolidation of the cases in one court, with BP recommending Texas and others advocating for Louisiana and other states.

A Washington-based federal judicial panel is scheduled to meet next month to decide whether to consolidate the cases and, if so, which judge should be assigned the monumental task. The job would include such key pretrial decisions as certifying a large class of plaintiffs to seek damages, a potential multibillion-dollar settlement, whether to dismiss the cases and what documents BP and the other companies might be forced to produce in court.

The AP review of disclosure statements shows the oil and gas industry's roots run as deep in the Gulf Coast's judiciary as they do in the region's economy. For example, one federal judge in Texas is a member of Houston's Petroleum Club, an "exclusive, handsome club of, and for, men of the oil industry."

Federal judicial rules require judges to disqualify themselves from hearing cases involving a company in which they have a direct financial interest, and some Louisiana judges have already done so. For example, U.S. District Judge Mary Ann Vial Lemmon in New Orleans, who reported ownership of BP stock, issued an order in early May that the court clerk not allot cases involving BP or related entities to her docket.

Another New Orleans jurist, U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier, said in court Friday he is selling his oil and gas investments — which included Transocean and Halliburton — to avoid any perception of a conflict. Barbier is presiding over about 20 spill-related lawsuits and some attorneys are recommending that he be chosen to oversee all cases filed nationally.

Still another judge in Louisiana, U.S. District Judge Eldon Fallon, recused himself because his attorney son-in-law is representing several people and businesses filing suits against BP and the

other companies over the rig explosion.

In many ways, the financial conflict rules are murky. For example, a judge does not have to step aside if the investments are part of a mutual fund over which they have no management control. Mere ties to companies or entities in the same industry, no matter how extensive, also don't require disqualification, according to legal experts.

"The specific rule forbids judges from hearing a case in which they have a financial interest. The more general rule forbids them from hearing cases in which their impartiality might reasonably be questioned," said Charles Geyh, an Indiana University law professor who has closely studied judicial ethics.

So a judge like U.S. District Judge Stanwood Duval of New Orleans would not have to disqualify himself even though he reported royalties from "mineral interest No. 1 and No. 2" in Terrebonne Parish, La., on his 2008 forms. Likewise for Senior U.S. District Judge William Barbour Jr. of Mississippi, who listed at least 30 oil and gas interests in three states including "McGowan Working Partners" and "Petro-Hunt Bovina Field," both in Mississippi.

Some judges have close ties to the energy industry that aren't for financial gain, but could still raise questions of potential bias.

The judge BP wants to hear all of the spill-related cases, U.S. District Judge Lynn Hughes of Houston, for the past two years has been a "distinguished lecturer" focusing on ethical issues for the 35,000-member American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Hughes is not paid a fee but does receive reimbursements for travel, food and lodging, said association spokesman Larry Nation. Hughes has appeared at petroleum geologist meetings in several Texas cities, in New Orleans and also in Cape Town, South Africa. He is scheduled to give a lecture later this month in Calgary, Canada, the oil and gas capital of that country. □

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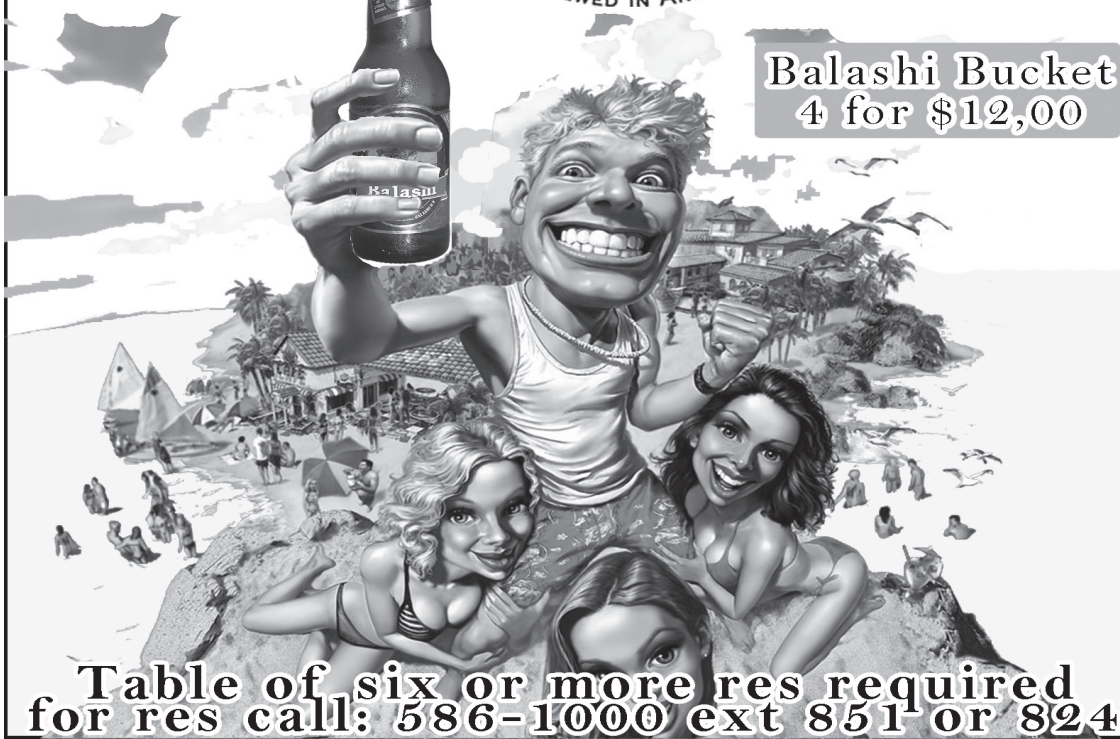


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At least 1 climber missing after Rainier avalanche

By PHUONG LE,

Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE – Nearly a dozen people trekking to the summit of Mount Rainier were overtaken by an avalanche, but all except one were pulled from the snow by guides, officials said.

A helicopter Saturday scoured the slope of Mount Rainier, some 60 miles east of Seattle, for the climber and a skier reported in the area who may also have been missing, said Mount Rainier National Park spokeswoman Patti Wold.

But bad weather forced officials to call off the search in the afternoon. Continuing avalanche dangers prevented a ground search. Officials said it might not be safe enough to search again by air or land until Monday.

Several climbing teams were ascending toward the summit of Rainier when the slab avalanche occurred at 4:45 a.m. Saturday at the 12,500-foot level as a large plate of snow broke away from the mountain, Wold said.

The avalanche ran about 1,200 feet down the Ingraham Direct Route and overtook 11 of the

climbers, she said.

Ten of the trekkers were pulled from the snow by mountaineering guides but the other person couldn't be located, she said.

A helicopter from the U.S. Army Reserve out of Fort Lewis airlifted two injured climbers from the upper mountain Saturday afternoon. Wold said they were flown to an area hospital and were in stable condition with lacerations and other injuries. There were no reports of any other significant injuries.

Officials said 11th person may have been climbing alone. "The missing climber did not register for his climb, so we are focusing our efforts on identifying him. Until we do, we are unable to notify his family of the situation," mountaineering ranger Stefan Lofgren said.

According to Colorado Avalanche Information Center, there have been 34 avalanche fatalities nationwide in the 2009-2010 season.

About 5 percent of the more than 10,000 who climbed the 14,411-foot Mount Rainier last year used the Ingraham Direct, according to a park report. □



This image provided by Mount Rainier National Park shows the avalanche path, center of image, Saturday June 5, 2010. Eleven climbers were overtaken by the avalanche early Saturday morning during a summit attempt. Ten of the eleven were extricated from the avalanche by guides from International Mountain Guides and Rainier Mountaineering Incorporated. The eleventh climber has not been located.

(AP Photo/Mount Rainier National Park)



Tornado debris is shown on Main Street in Millbury, Ohio Sunday, June 6, 2010. Authorities say tornadoes and thunderstorms that swept through the Midwest overnight killed a number of people in Ohio, destroyed homes and damaged a high school gymnasium where graduation was to be held Sunday.

(AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

OHIO TORNADO

Continued from front Page

Lake Township Police Chief Mark Hummer flew over the damaged area and said at least 50 homes were destroyed and another 50 severely damaged, as well as six commercial

buildings. The storm fell over an area of farm fields and light industry, narrowly missing the heavily populated suburbs on the southern edge of Toledo.

"It's a war zone," Hummer said. "It's pretty disheartening."

Rescue officials were still

searching through homes Sunday and couldn't say whether anyone else was missing, Lake Township Fire Chief Todd Walters said.

The tornado turned a township police and emergency medical services building into a mishmash of 2-by-4 framing and pink insulation. Hummer was talking to a police dispatcher by phone when the storm hit.

"She started saying, 'The building is shaking,' and then another dispatcher came on and said, 'The roof just blew off,'" he said.

The storm ripped off most of the building's back half and wrapped part of the metal roof around a tree.

At least six police vehicles — half the township's fleet — were destroyed, and one car was tossed into the spot where the building once stood.

The storm knocked out

emergency services for a short time, and all the emergency dispatchers and 911 operators had to be moved to a nearby town.

"When the people who are supposed to help you are victims of the storm, it does take you a minute to catch your breath," Hummer said.

Those killed included a person outside the police department and a motorist, Hummer said. He said a young child and two other victims were from nearby Millbury, a bedroom community of roughly 1,200 about 10 miles southeast of Toledo. Hummer said two other people died at hospitals but he did not have details.

One of the victims was the father of Lake High School's valedictorian, said Tim Krugh, president of the school district's board. Krugh said the school has rescheduled graduation for Tuesday evening at a Toledo

community college.

Neighbors said the house of the valedictorian's family was destroyed, and all that was left was a basement filled with water.

At least 17 people in the Toledo area were hospitalized, including two adults and two children in critical condition, Mercy hospital system spokeswoman Gloria Enk said.

In southeastern Michigan, severe storms and high winds ripped siding off a building at the Fermi 2 nuclear plant, causing it to shut down automatically, said Dan Smith, the public information officer for Monroe County. Investigators were inspecting the nuclear plant on the shore of Lake Erie on Sunday morning, and the plant was expected to go back into operation, Smith said. □

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Vatican says world ignores Christians in Mideast



Pope Benedict XVI, walks in the U.N controlled area dividing the island's capital prior to a mass at the Church of the Holy Cross in Nicosia, Cyprus, Saturday, June 5, 2010. Pope Benedict XVI appealed Saturday for support for embattled Christian communities in the Middle East, calling them a vital force for peace in the region.

(AP Photo/Osservatorio Romano, HO)

By VICTOR L. SIMPSON
and MENELAOS
HADJICOSTIS,

Associated Press Writers

NICOSIA, Cyprus — The Vatican said Sunday that the international community is ignoring the plight of Christians in the Middle East, and that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the war in Iraq and political instability in Lebanon have forced thousands to flee the region.

A working paper released during Pope Benedict XVI's pilgrimage to Cyprus to prepare for a crisis summit of Middle East bishops in Rome in October also cites the "extremist current" unleashed

by the rise of "political Islam" as a threat to Christians.

The paper said that the line between religion and politics is blurred in Muslim countries, "relegating Christians to the precarious position of being considered non-citizens, despite the fact that they were citizens of their countries long before the rise of Islam."

"The key to harmonious living between Christians and Muslims is to recognize religious freedom and human rights," it said.

In his final Mass in Cyprus on Sunday, Benedict said he was praying that the October meeting will focus the attention of the international community "on the plight of those Christians in the Middle East who suffer for their beliefs."

He appealed for an "urgent and concerted international effort to resolve the ongoing tensions in the Middle East, especially in the Holy Land, before such conflicts lead to greater bloodshed."

The Vatican considers mostly Greek Orthodox Cyprus as a bridge between Europe and the Middle East and invited bishops to come to the Mediterranean island to receive the working paper.

The pope said Cyprus can "play a particular role in promoting dialogue and cooperation" in the region. A meeting between the pope and a Muslim leader was scrapped after the Turkish Cypriot official was delayed crossing the United Nations-controlled buffer zone that divides the island between ethnic Turks and Greeks, the Vatican said.

Yusuf Suicmez, the head of Turkish Cypriots' religious affairs department, said he had

hoped to pray with the pope for peace and brotherhood. Benedict briefly met with another Turkish Cypriot Muslim leader on Saturday as part of efforts to talk to both sides of the island's decades-old conflict and help foster reconciliation.

Cyprus was ethnically split in 1974 when Turkey invaded after a coup by supporters of union with Greece. Turkish Cypriots declared an independent republic in the north in 1983, but only Turkey recognizes it, and it maintains 35,000 troops there.

The island's Greek Cypriot President Dimitris Christofias and newly-elected Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu resumed long-running reunification talks in May after a two-month pause for the poll. The talks have yielded only limited progress so far.

Benedict has tread a careful diplomatic path since arriving Friday on the island, but he made a poignant appeal for peace before leaving.

The pope said he saw for himself the "sad division of the island" and that he was "deeply moved" by the pleas of Cypriots who wished to return to homes in the north that were lost during the war.

"Let me encourage you and your fellow citizens to work patiently and steadfastly with your neighbors to build a better and more certain future for all your children," the pope said. A group of around 100 Orthodox Christian demonstrators earlier staged a peaceful protest against Benedict's visit outside the Nicosia sports stadium where the pope presided over Mass, holding aloft banners calling the pope "a heretic." □

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Gates: New US intelligence chief the right choice

By ANNE GEARAN,
AP National Security Writer
BAKU, Azerbaijan – U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Sunday that his Pentagon intelligence chief, in line to oversee all American spy agencies, has the ability to forge consensus among that sprawling network.

Retired Air Force Lt. Gen. James R. Clapper, nominated by President Barack Obama on Saturday to be national intelligence director, is “the consummate intelligence professional who has the respect of virtually everybody in the community,” Gates told reporters traveling with him to Azerbaijan.

He described Clapper as having the proper temperament for “the kind of constructive, positive chemistry with the other leaders of the intelligence community.” Clapper was the only person Gates brought to the Defense Department after he was named defense secretary by President George W. Bush in 2006. Gates has known Clapper for 20 years

and considers him a friend.

Pending Senate approval, Clapper would succeed retired Adm. Dennis Blair, who resigned last month after clashing with the White House and other intelligence officials during his 16 months in the position.

Although Obama is seeking a quick confirmation vote for Clapper, senators in both parties have questioned whether he should be in the post.

Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, who heads the Senate Intelligence Committee, has said it would be better to have a civilian. The committee’s top Republican, Sen. Kit Bond of Missouri, has said he believes Clapper would be outmaneuvered because White House counterterrorism adviser John Brennan and CIA Director Leon Panetta have more access to Obama.

Clapper, 69, is known for being blunt and willing to argue a point with lawmakers as well as administration officials.

He has been confirmed for administration positions four times.

Gates said that complaints on Capitol Hill that Clapper hasn’t always been forthcoming reflect a jurisdictional tug-of-war “about who gets briefed on what.”

“Jim has a strong, long record of not only adherence to congressional oversight but support of it and enthusiastic cooperation,” he said.

If confirmed, Clapper would be the fourth intelligence director since the position was created in 2004 as an answer to post-Sept. 11 criticism that the nation’s intelligence agencies lacked an overall manager.

“What is really key for success in leading the intelligence community and for the DNI, in my view, is not only long experience and familiarity with the intelligence world, but the temperament to have the kind of constructive, positive chemistry with the other leaders of the intelligence community,” Gates said. “And Gen. Clapper



US Defence Secretary Robert Gates delivers a speech during the Asia-Pacific security forum in Singapore. Diplomatic efforts to punish North Korea for sinking a South Korean warship may have little effect on a regime that “doesn’t care” about the outside world or its own people, Gates told the BBC on Sunday.

(AFP/Roslan Rahman)

has that kind of chemistry, has had it all along.”

The top choice to replace Clapper as undersecretary of defense for intelligence is Mike Vickers, the assistant secretary of defense for special operations/low-intensity conflict, a former

senior U.S. official said. A senior administration source said Vickers has Obama’s trust and backing but that Obama is leaving the choice to Gates. Both sources spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss personnel matters. □



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Guatemala raises tropical storm death toll to 172



Relatives mourn the death of Erick Baldonero Ramirez who died in a mudslide due to Tropical Storm Agatha in Guatemala City, Thursday, June 3, 2010. Baldonero, 22, was found dead Wednesday among debris after he was killed by a mudslide on Saturday.

(AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

GUATEMALA CITY – Guatemalan officials say the death toll from Tropical Storm Agatha has risen to 172.

National disaster agency spokesman David de Leon says 101 people are still missing in the country and 148 were injured.

The updated toll released Sunday means at least 205 people in Central America were killed by Agatha, whose heavy rains unleashed floods and mudslides last weekend.

Guatemala's Ministry of Communications say the storm also washed out 24 bridges and damaged 19 more. Some 7,000 homes were destroyed.

Agatha also caused about \$1 million in damage at the Mayan archaeological site Quirigua, 130 miles (208 kilometers) northeast of Guatemala City.

Officials estimate about \$475 million in total damage nationwide.



Haiti's Latest Problem: Clearing Away the Rubble

By JESSICA DESVARIEUX

PORT-AU-PRINCE - Sitting alongside a pool of water, the women wash their clothes in oversized-tin basins. But the sound of water sloshing against stone washboards is drowned out by the monstrous dump trucks transporting tons of rubble from the Jan. 12 earthquake. RiviÈre Grise, stretching from La Viste national park, to the south of Port-au-Prince, to the capital's bay, has become an illegal dumping site for debris. "They usually come at night to dump the rubble. They used to dump during the day but then we started to run after them," says Jesner Jeanjul, 47, who has lived in the area known as Ti Moulin all of her life. Jeanjul says she would wake up each morning and there would be new piles of rubble in the riverbed. Merely a trickle now, the waterway usually overflows during heavy rains - and locals are afraid of catastrophe now that its course is obstructed with huge pieces of concrete and rock. "Debris could significantly change the flow of the river and could create flooded rivers that overflow to make more banks," says Scott Solberg, director of Sun Mountain Internationals, a socio-economic development and environmental organization. He says that the potential new channels can cause flash floods, which could wipe out entire tent cities during what is anticipated to be an active hurricane season. But there is so much debris to dispose of - 20 million to 25 million cubic yards (15 million to 19 million cubic meters), enough to fill the Louisiana Superdome five times - and only one approved dumping site for the entire country, the Port-au-Prince port terminal Varreux. "They are dumping randomly

everywhere," says Dan Strode, operations manger of rubble removal for the Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), a project funded by USAID to clear streets and collapsed homes. (See photos of how commerce is coming to the aid of Haiti.) CHF has removed about 70,000 cubic meters of debris, the equivalent of 28 Olympic sized swimming pools, from Port-au-Prince and the Petit-Goave-Leogane corridor, which is about 40 miles from Varreux. Strode says his drivers were paid by the truckload so initially they would be dumping anywhere in order to make more trips and more money. A new system has been put in place where drivers get approved signatures at the dumping site before they return to collect more debris. The organization has considered installing private GPS systems in the trucks to guarantee dumping at the approved site. At Varreux, guards wave dump trucks through to empty their debris on existing piles. Some of the rubble is dumped directly into the port, ostensibly used for land reclamation. Eric Overvest, Country Director for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) says the lack of multiple sites slows down the already slow debris removal process. "There's been very little rubble removal," says Overst, "The whole undertaking and the plan requires government leadership. It requires a government that designs a plan and a strategy of how we want to go about this." Chief Haitian government adviser on debris management Gerard-Emile "Aby" Brun says potential sites have already been identified in the northern eminent domain territory of Source Puante, which is scheduled to be approved by next week.

Gazan names baby Erdogan, after Turkish PM



Palestinian newborn Rajab Erdogan is held by his father in front of a Turkish flag for members of the media, at their home in the southern Gaza Strip refugee camp of Khan Younis, Sunday, June 6, 2010. The baby was born on Saturday and was named by his father in honor of Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The push for an international inquiry puts Israel under further pressure to explain how its attempt to stop the aid ship flotilla from breaching a tight blockade of Hamas-ruled Gaza turned deadly, with 9 activists killed, including 8 Turks and a U.S. citizen of Turkish origin.

(AP Photo/Eyad Baba)

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — A Gaza man swept up in the pro-Turkey sentiments washing over the seaside strip has named his son after the Turkish prime minister.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan is a hero in Gaza for trying to pressure

Israel to lift its blockade of the territory. Last week, nine Turkish activists were killed in a clash with Israeli soldiers on a ship trying to break the embargo.

Gaza's population registry says a baby named Recep Erdogan

was born Saturday in the town of Khan Younis.

Saleh Abu Shamala said Sunday he decided to name his third child after the Turkish premier "because he was the only leader who called to lift the unfair siege of Gaza."

Israel and Egypt imposed the blockade after the Islamic militant Hamas seized Gaza in 2007.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP's earlier story is below.

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Video captures sought porn actor's deadly fall

LOS ANGELES – Surrounded by a SWAT team on a rocky cliff, a porn actor suspected of killing a colleague last week moved to the edge of the outcropping and fell some 40 feet to his death, ending a dramatic, daylong standoff with police outside Los Angeles.

Video of the apparent suicide captured by news cameras Saturday shows Stephen Clancy Hill in Chatsworth, talking to police negotiators, with a crowd of media watching. Hill tumbled down the hillside after scooting to the ledge from a seated position.

Police said Hill had repeatedly threatened suicide in the hours leading up to the fall, which came a day after murder and attempted murder charges had been filed against 34-year-old porn actor.

“He was bent on taking his own life,” Deputy Chief Kirk Albanese said. “It’s very unfortunate. We wanted this to end a different way.”

Waiting paramedics rushed Hill to a nearby hospital, where he was pronounced dead from injuries suffered in the fall.

Police say a “less than lethal munition”

was used against Hill as they tried to apprehend him just before he apparently took his life.

It was unclear whether the projectile that officers fired had struck Hill or missed.

Albanese declined to discuss details of the weapon police used, citing an ongoing internal investigation that is launched after every serious use of force by officers.

SWAT officers had spent part of Saturday afternoon trying to talk Hill down from the hillside as he clutched a sword.

It was unknown whether the sword was the weapon in Tuesday’s deadly attack at a DVD production center that also left two people injured.

Hill fled to the Chatsworth neighborhood hillside after leaving a house where he was barricaded for most of Saturday.

Charges in the attack had been filed against Hill Friday after Eric Jover, who runs the Ultima DVD production house, offered a \$2,000 reward on the company’s website for information leading to his arrest.



In this photo taken June 5, 2010, Stephen Clancy Hill, 34, a porn actor suspected of fatally stabbing a former co-worker and wounding two others during a violent rampage threatens to kill himself with a samurai sword as Los Angeles Police Department SWAT team members and crisis counselors attempt to keep him from jumping off a cliff during a dramatic, daylong standoff in Chatsworth, Calif. Saturday afternoon. Clancy later fell to his death when officers moved in.

(AP Photo/Axel Koester)

Authorities said Hill, whose professional name is Steve Driver, attacked a colleague with a sword that was used as a film prop. The rampage occurred during a social

gathering at Ultima’s studios about a week after being told he was being fired and that he would have to move out of the production facility, where he had been living, authorities said. □

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Eurogroup's Juncker not worried by Hungary and euro

By Sudip Kar-Gupta

PARIS (Reuters) – The chairman of the Eurogroup of euro zone finance ministers, Jean-Claude Juncker, dismissed concerns on Sunday that Hungary might face a

Greek-style debt crisis and said the current level of the euro did not worry him.

“The situation in Hungary doesn’t worry me,” Juncker, who chairs the regular monthly meetings of euro zone finance

ministers, told TV5 Monde and Radio France Inter in an interview due to be broadcast later on Sunday.

Fears of a Hungarian debt crisis pushed the euro to a four-year low against the dollar on Friday and reignited concerns that more Eastern European nations could reveal financial frailties.

However, Hungary’s government said on Saturday it aimed to meet this year’s budget deficit target and described talk of a debt crisis as “exaggerated.”

Juncker, who is also Prime Minister of Luxembourg, also said he was not worried by the current level of the euro, although he had been taken aback by the speed at which the euro has recently fallen.

He backed calls from European politicians for Europe to have its own ratings agency, following criticism of rating agencies for their role



Eurogroup President and Prime Minister of Luxembourg Jean-Claude Juncker arrives at the European Council building ahead of the Euro Zone leaders summit in Brussels, May 7, 2010.

REUTERS/Thierry Roge

in the global credit crisis.

Juncker also said he felt that China’s yuan currency was undervalued, echoing similar criticism of China’s monetary policy from other politicians. China’s currency policies were spared a specific mention in the Group of 20 communique on Saturday, but U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner

and the International Monetary Fund kept up pressure for a stronger yuan.

On June 3, Juncker said that steps taken by euro zone members to deal with their debt crisis would be sufficient if markets understood them and governments treated seriously the conditions under which help is provided. □



Chrysler recalls 35,000 Dodge Calibers over ‘sticky’ pedals

NEW YORK – US automaker Chrysler has recalled some 35,000 Dodge Caliber vehicles worldwide over problems with sticky acceleration pedals, the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced on its website.

Chrysler is recalling 25,000 Dodge Caliber of the 2007 model year sold in the United States, as well as a smaller number of large four-wheel drive Jeep Compass vehicles, also from 2007, built between March and May 2006.

The remaining vehicles involved in the recall are in Mexico, Canada and other countries.

The acceleration pedals were built by CTS, a US company that also built pedals implicated in Toyota’s acceleration-related recall earlier in the year.

Chrysler told the NHTSA that the pedal design was different and made with different equipment than the pedals involved in the Toyota recall.

The NHTSA opened a probe into the Chrysler pedals on April 29, based on five complaints, the agency said in a statement.

Chrysler believes that the problems do not represent a high risk for the safety of passengers, but said it decided to issue a recall out of abundance of caution.

The company said it has no information on accidents caused by the problem, and said it will inspect the recalled vehicles and replace pedals if necessary.

The NHTSA is also investigating possible problems with floor mats that could trap the accelerator pedal in the down position in two models of Ford cars.

Toyota has recalled about 10 million vehicles worldwide, mainly for problems attributed to involuntary acceleration due to pedals being jammed in the down position.

Toyota overtook General Motors in 2008 as the world’s top automaker, but safety issues have raised questions over whether it sacrificed its reputation for reliability to become number one. □

For stocks, angst over Europe, jobs

By Caroline Valetkevitch

NEW YORK (Reuters) – U.S. stocks could face more pressure this week unless investors get some relief from worries about Europe, jobs and the toll they might take on the economic recovery.

Reports on retail sales and consumer sentiment, both of which should offer clues on the outlook for spending, are among the week’s major economic indicators. Also on tap will be international trade data.

The impact of BP’s (BP.N) (BPL) massive Gulf Coast oil spill on the environment and the energy industry also is likely to stay in focus, with moves to contain the spill so far having failed.

The three major U.S. stock indexes sank on Friday, with the Standard & Poor’s 500 index (.SPX) suffering its worst percentage drop since May 20, after a disappointing U.S. jobs report and new concerns that the European debt crisis was spreading.

“We’re going to take our clues from what’s happening in Europe as it seems to be the emotional drain on the market,” said Robert Froehlich, senior managing director of The Hartford Mutual Funds in Simsbury,

Connecticut.

In a June 3 letter released on Saturday as the second day of a Group of 20 meeting of finance ministers and central bankers got under way, U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told policy-makers of the world’s leading developed and emerging economies they can’t rely on the debt-burdened U.S. consumer to increase demand for global exports and help boost the world’s economy.

“The necessary shift toward higher savings in the United States needs to be complemented by stronger domestic demand growth in Japan and the European surplus countries, and sustained growth in private demand, together with a more flexible exchange rate policy, in China,” Geithner wrote.

The G20, in a communique released after two days of talks in South Korea ended on Saturday, did not specifically cite the euro zone’s debt troubles.

“Those countries with serious fiscal challenges need to accelerate the pace of consolidation,” the G20 communique said. “We welcome the recent announcements by some countries to reduce their deficits in 2010 and strengthen their fiscal frameworks and institutions.” □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Justin Rose rallies to win the Memorial



DUBLIN, Ohio (AP) — Justin Rose joined the English revival in golf on Sunday, rallying from a four-shot deficit to win the Memorial with a flawless final round for his first victory in seven years on the PGA Tour.

It was the second straight year the Memorial winner came from four shots behind. Tiger Woods did it a year ago, and the 29-year-old Rose was equally impressive. He played bogey-free at Muirfield Village for a 6-under 66 and a three-shot victory over Rickie Fowler. Rose tapped in for par, thrust

his fist in the air and slammed it down, a moment long overdue. Even year-old son Leo approved. As Rose held him aloft in his arms, the infant clapped his hands. "I've had a few close calls over time, and you start to sometimes wonder why you can't get it done," Rose said. It was his 162nd start in PGA Tour events, dating to that memorable performance he turned in as a 17-year-old amateur when he tied for fourth at Royal Birkdale in the 1998 British Open. Fowler, the 21-year-old rookie

trying to become the youngest winner on the course Jack Nicklaus built, fell apart briefly on the back nine to fall three shots behind, and he never caught up. He closed with a 73 to finish runner-up for the second time this year. "Your time is coming," Rose told him after Fowler approached to congratulate him.

Rose ran off three straight birdies to make the turn, saved par with a 20-footer on the 10th to keep his momentum, then seized control over the next hour despite making only one birdie.

Fowler, dressed all in orange, drove into the bunker on No. 10 for bogey. He took birdie out of the equation on the par-5 11th when he laid up into a messy lie behind trees in the left rough. Then came the par-3 12th, where his tee shot bounded off the slope and into the water for a double bogey. Fowler fought to stay in the mix, but he never got closer than two shots the rest of the way.

Ricky Barnes offset two double bogeys by holing out



from the fairway for eagle for the second time this week. He closed with a 73 and tied for third with Bo Van Pelt, who missed a short par putt on the final hole and had to settle for a 69.

It was quite the roar when Barnes holed his wedge for eagle on the 15th, and Rose could hear it as he stood over a birdie putt just outside 12 feet on the 16th hole. He also heard the fans scream for "Ricky." He just wasn't sure which one - Ricky Barnes or Rickie Fowler.

"I knew I had a 50-50 chance," he said with a grin.

Assuming it was Fowler, Rose buried his birdie putt. It gave him a bigger cushion than he realized.

Woods, the defending champion and a four-time winner, closed with a 72 and tied for 19th to finish 12 shots behind. It was his worst finish at the Memorial since 2002, although he found one

highlight.

"I'm capable of playing four rounds in a row," said Woods, who has done that only once this year, at the Masters. He missed the cut at Quail Hollow and withdrew from The Players Championship in the final round with a sore neck.

It was not an inspiring performance, especially with the U.S. Open two weeks away at Pebble Beach.

For the third tournament in a month, Phil Mickelson had a chance to get to No. 1 in the world with a victory. He got on the leaderboard with a strong start, but lost it on the par-5 15th when his drive was so far left that he wound up taking a penalty drop on the cart path from the 17th hole. He hit driver off the path up near the 16th tee, but he wound up three-putting for double bogey.

Mickelson shot a 69 in his final tuneup for the U.S. Open. □



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Rafael Nadal defeats Soderling for 5th French Open title

PARIS (AP)—Scurrying along the baseline as only he can, sliding through the red clay he rules, Rafael Nadal stretched to somehow dig the ball out of a corner and fling it back over the net—once, twice, three times—during a 14-stroke exchange that ended when Robin Soderling sailed a shot long. The French Open final was all of seven points old, and the

message was unmistakable: Nadal's knees are fine now, which means he is an entirely different player from the one Soderling stunned at Roland Garros in 2009. That was the first loss of Nadal's career at this tournament, and it remains the only one. His body sound, his mind at ease, Nadal played his unique brand of relentless, perpetual-motion tennis to handily beat



the No. 5-seeded Soderling of Sweden 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 Sunday. Nadal won his fifth French Open championship, his seventh Grand Slam title overall, and earned a return to No. 1.

Put simply, Nadal was far superior in every aspect, from start to finish, in improving to 38-4 with four titles this season, both tour bests.

He saved all eight break points he faced. He returned well, too, against a guy who tops 140 mph, managing to hit the same number of aces Sunday, seven apiece, even though Soderling had totaled 75, and Nadal only 12, through the semifinals. He made only 16 unforced errors, 29 fewer than Soderling. Most significantly, he never allowed his big-swinging foe to dictate points the way Soderling did during his pair of career-defining upsets—against Nadal in last year's fourth round, and against defending champion and top-seeded Federer in this year's quarterfinals.

Part of that was a result of



going after Soderling's weaker backhand side at the outset of points. Mainly, though, it was thanks to Nadal's sublime scrambling, side to side, forward and backward, never relaxing one bit, nearly always

forcing Soderling to conjure up more than one brilliant shot to win a single point. Effort of that sort can be as demoralizing to an opponent as it is decisive on the scoreboard. □

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French champ hopes momentum carries over to grass

PARIS (AP)—For her next act, French Open champion Francesca Schiavone might want to try kissing Centre Court grass.

Wimbledon's two weeks away, and Schiavone won't have the element of surprise that she enjoyed in Paris. But the demonstrative Italian made a breakthrough last year at the All England Club, reaching the quarterfinals there for the first time, and she'll be eager to build on the momentum generated by her first Grand Slam title.

Schiavone defeated Samantha Stosur in Saturday's entertaining final, 6-4, 7-6 (2), and celebrated by kissing the clay, a ritual she began in the quarterfinals.

To kiss the ground for me is to thank this clay, this beautiful tournament and this arena," she said.

Playing in her 39th major tournament and seeded 17th, Schiavone was a champion easy to applaud. Her improbable victory won praise by Grand Slam winners past and present, from Martina Navratilova to Kim Clijsters.

"Congrats Schiavo!" Clijsters tweeted. "Great to see one of the nicest, funniest, coolest, honest and hard-working girls win the trophy!"

President Giorgio Napolitano of Italy weighed in, phoning Schiavone with congratulations before she even left the court. She's the first Italian women's champion in the 126-year history of Grand Slam tennis.

When asked if she expects a reception from 50,000 in Rome, she said no. But she does expect a slightly expanded fan base.

"I want to go home to Mommy and Daddy," she said. "This is my goal for the moment. Usually we do good dinner or good lunch, 10 people, usually. Now I think I have to buy a new house, bigger, for 50 people."

The crowd for the final included some of those friends and relatives. She was surprised by their attendance and recounted a conversation she had with them after the match.

At 29, Schiavone became the oldest woman to win her first Grand Slam title in 41 years. The only other time Roland Garros has been won by a woman not seeded in the top 10 was in 1933.

"She played like a champion," Navratilova said. "She is a champion. She always had it in her." Like many Europeans, Schiavone grew up with



a special regard for the French Open, which made the victory that much sweeter.

"I really always dreamed (of) this tournament," she said. "It's strange to say it, but when I call my daddy, he say to me, 'I remember that you always dream this one.' 'Every morning that you wake up, you work to do something like this.'"

On Monday, two weeks shy of her 30th birthday, she'll become the oldest woman in 12 years to crack the top 10 for the first time. She's expected to be ranked sixth.

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Soccer fans stampede outside South African stadium



TEMBISA, South Africa (AP)—Thousands of soccer fans stampeded outside a stadium Sunday before an exhibition game between Nigeria and North Korea, leaving 15 people injured, including one police officer who was seriously hurt. Several fans fell under the rush of people, many wearing Nigeria jerseys. The Makhulong Stadium in the Johannesburg suburb seats about 12,000 fans. The mayhem happened only five days before the start of

the World Cup, the first to be held in Africa. “At this moment we have 14 civilians that were slightly injured in the process, one policeman seriously injured,” police spokesman Lt. Col. Eugene Opperman said outside the stadium. The injured were being treated at a hospital, he said. Opperman said tickets for the game were given out for free outside the stadium. “What then occurred was large groups of people gathered outside the gates wanting to

come in and wanting to get free tickets. Unfortunately in the process, the gates were opened and there was a stampede,” Opperman said. Soccer’s international governing body said it had nothing to do with the ticketing. “FIFA and the OC (local organizing committee) would like to reiterate that this friendly match has no relation whatsoever with the operational organization of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, for which we remain fully confident,” FIFA said in a statement. Police spokesman Col. Hangwani Mulaudzi added that because this was an exhibition game, the Nigerian team—the designated host—was responsible for security, not World Cup organizers. Once trouble broke out, he said, police stepped in. “I think the fans were excited to come and see their heroes who will be participating in the World Cup,” he said. One police officer blamed FIFA for the trouble.

“FIFA made the tickets free and now look,” said the policeman, who refused to be identified because he was not authorized to speak to the media. “FIFA wanted them free.” One fan, wearing a South Africa rugby jersey and bleeding from the head, said the rampaging crowd overpowered him. “I fell down and people just fell over me,” Japhta Mombelo said. “That crowd is overpowering. The police have told me to stay around and they will organize an ambulance but I am still waiting.” The first rush came when the gates opened to allow fans into the stadium. Police soon closed the gates, but when they were reopened, a second rush occurred, with more people falling and being run over. “When we were coming in they were just stepping on us,” said Princess Mbali, who was wearing a green South Africa shirt. “I thought I was dying. I was at the bottom.” Shortly after the second rush, the gates were closed again and

much of the crowd dissipated. “The police aren’t saying anything, just go and watch the match,” Mbali said. “How can we watch the match when we are hurt? Maybe my ribs are broken. No one is helping us and we are South Africans.” The injured policeman was bloodied in the crush and later taken away on a stretcher. Other fans who appeared to be lightly injured walked away from the scene as it calmed down. The Tembisa Stadium is nothing like those built or renovated for the World Cup. It has concrete terraces and is surrounded by a fence with gates and no turnstiles. The Nigeria and North Korean teams were lining up for the national anthems when the second surge happened. They had no idea what was going on outside. The match was suspended for about 10 minutes shortly after the second half began, but it restarted with Nigeria leading 1-0. The Nigerians won 3-1. Security was also increased as the match went on. □

Miguel Cotto wins ballpark brawl, title

NEW YORK (AP)—Miguel Cotto of Puerto Rico stopped Israel’s Yuri Foreman in the ninth round Saturday night to win the junior middleweight title, delighting thousands of fans in the first fight at Yankee Stadium in more than three decades. Foreman slipped in the seventh round and badly twisted his right knee, then slipped to the mat again later in the round. He gamely survived to the end but could hardly move around the ring, limping on a right knee that was already covered by a black brace and getting tagged by Cotto at will. “I proved this night, everybody who said Miguel Cotto was finished, everybody failed,” Cotto said. Between rounds, Foreman’s

wife leaned over the railing and implored his trainer to stop the fight. Someone in Foreman’s corner obliged and threw in the towel early in the seventh round, but referee Arthur Mercante Jr. angrily tossed the towel right back out. He asked Foreman if he wanted to continue, and the aspiring rabbi with the compelling back story elected to fight on. The ring had filled with people and was cleared before the fight continued. “I looked at the screen and I saw his trainer throwing the towel in the ring,” Cotto said. “The referee said someone from outside the corner threw the towel into the ring.” Foreman (28-1) was able to move better in the eighth

round and survived to the ninth, when Cotto caught him near the ropes and dropped him to the canvas once more. “You see white towel and you think it was over,” Foreman said. “I didn’t want it to be over.” Mercante stepped in and called off the fight at 42 seconds of the ninth round. “I was making side to side movement and it gave out,” Foreman said of his right knee. “It was a lot of pain, a lot of sharp pain. Couldn’t do a lot of moves.” It was somewhat of a vindication for Cotto, who had endured a pair of savage beatings at the hands of Antonio Margarito and pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao, who watched the



fight ringside. Those losses and a few difficult wins had many people wondering whether Cotto still had it. He proved that he certainly does, winning a title in his third weight division. “My jab is back, my movement is back, my left hook to the body is back,” said Cotto, who had Hall of Fame trainer Manny Steward in his corner

for the first time. Cotto (35-2, 28 KOs) set the tempo with his left jab from the moment he stepped in the ring, showing that he’s perfectly comfortable at 154 pounds. Even before the bizarre middle rounds, when for a few moments it looked like the fight would go to the scorecards, Cotto was always in control. □

Island's inaugural event will close with 'Cyrus'

Richard Gere meets the press on Aruba

Hyatt Regency hosts "conversations with actors"

ORANJESTAD - Richard Gere starrer "Hachiko" by Lasse Halstrom kicked off the inaugural Aruba Film Festival on June 4.

The festival unveiled its line up last Thursday and wraps on June 11 with Fox Searchlight comedy "Cyrus," helmed by Jay and Mark Duplass and starring John C. Reilly, Jonah Hill, Marisa Tomei and Catherine Keener.

Festival will showcase 25 films from 16 countries ranging from Hindi musical comedy "Three Idiots" to Dutch drama "Amsterdam" and English horror pic "Black Death" by Christopher Smith. Latter two pics as well as "Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang" will have their international premieres at the fest.

Latino pics include Guillermo Arriaga's "The Burning Plain," Diego Luna's "Abel" and Venezuelan Haik Gazarian's war drama "Venezzia."

Gere received a Golden Aruba humanitarian award and participated in a panel with helmer Bernardo Bertolucci, who received a Golden Aruba for outstanding achievement in film.

Continued on Pages B8 & 9



PASEO HERENCIA – It was always a dream for Film Director Haik Gazarian to premier his film "Venezzia" on Aruba. Lead actors Alfonso Herrera and Ruddy Rodriguez were seen on Saturday night on Aruba at the Paseo Herencia for the Red Carpet Premiere together with

Executive Producer Edgar Ramirez, Valentina Rendon (screenwriter) and Johanna Morales (Actress). Venezzia is a love story set during WWII in the Caribbean, is based in factual events that happened in the region during the first attacks of the German u-boats to the oil tankers that

where supplying all the oil to the refineries of Aruba (at that time the largest one in the world).

"When I wrote the story of Venezzia, I always dreamed to Premiere my film in Aruba as the Island played a key role during WWII and in Venezzia we show the importance of

The most expensive Venezuelan film in history

"Venezzia" showcased on Aruba

the region, this of course set around the beautiful love story of Frank and Venezzia," said Gazarian to Aruba Today. The movie revolves around Frank Moore, an American communications specialist whose orders were to protect oil tankers from the threat of U-Boats in the Caribbean and discover the identity of a Nazi spy amidst the Venezuelan Army, Frank meets Venezzia and falls in love but it's an

impossible love as she is unhappily married to Franks superior: Captain Salvatierra. Frank and Venezzia unleash their passion, their plans for a new life change as Frank is accused of being the spy. "Venezzia" It is said to be the most expensive movie of Venezuela (the budget exceeded one million dollars)□

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Joran van der Sloot interrogated in Peru



LIMA, Peru -- The lone suspect in the disappearance of U.S. teen Natalee Holloway was paraded -- moist-eyed and looking stunned -- before reporters on Saturday as Peruvians denounced him and detectives began interrogating him about the murder of a Lima student. Joran van der Sloot arrived at criminal police headquarters in a brown Interpol SUV and was escorted across an auditorium of shouting, shutter-snapping journalists three times. Wearing a green bulletproof vest, his hands handcuffed behind him, the husky 22-year-old Dutchman stared straight ahead and didn't respond to reporters' questions or even make eye contact. Outside the police headquarters, seven Indian shamans in brightly colored ponchos repeatedly stabbed a cloth doll representing van der Sloot in a "spiritual punishment" ritual.

"We're punishing him so that all the forces of evil are purged," one shouted. About an hour earlier, onlookers yelled insults at the man who has dominated Peruvian front pages as he was transferred from a highway police station wagon south of the foggy coastal capital. His interrogation began almost immediately, Gen. Cesar Guardia, chief of Peru's criminal police, told The Associated Press. Chile deported van der Sloot at the countries' border on Friday and he was driven 17 hours north in a police caravan. Chilean police spokesman Fernando Ovalle said the Dutchman told them he did not kill 21-year-old Stephany Flores, who was found battered with a broken neck on Sunday in his Lima hotel room. But van der Sloot did acknowledge that "he met her and at some point they went to a casino," Ovalle said. Police released video Saturday taken by hotel security cameras showing van der Sloot and his alleged victim entering his hotel room together and the Dutchman later leaving alone with his bags. Flores is seen trailing van der Sloot, her head bowed, after he is given his room key. She is in the same attitude when she follows him into the room. Van der Sloot is wearing a white,

long-sleeved button-down shirt and jeans in the video. Flores wears a dark sleeveless T-shirt and jeans and has her hair up. Later video shows the Dutchman leaving the hotel in a patterned shirt, a day pack on his back and a gym bag in his hand. Gen. Guardia said that at 8:10 a.m., nearly an hour and a half before leaving the hotel, van der Sloot walked across the street alone, bought bread and two cups of coffee at a supermarket and returned to his hotel room. Peru's interior minister, Octavio Salazar, reminded reporters that the murder investigation was not over. "You need to be calm. We can't rush the matter, nor can we give details concerning the event or that investigation itself," he told a brief news conference. "In two weeks we'll know if the girl had sexual relations or if there is alcohol in her blood," Dr. Cesar Tejada, the deputy Lima medical examiner, told The Associated Press in an interview. The girl's father, Ricardo Flores, told the AP that video cameras had also tracked the couple as they walked before dawn Sunday to van der Sloot's hotel from a casino in Lima's upscale Miraflores district where the two met playing poker.

She had dropped two girlfriends off at their homes several hours earlier. El Comercio, citing a police report, said she sent a text message to one to tell her she was "walking up the stairs to my bedroom." Guardia said he could not confirm the report. Flores, a 48-year-old circus promoter and former race car driver, said he doesn't want the death penalty for van der Sloot, only justice. In Peru, murder carries a prison sentence of up to 35 years. Van der Sloot remains the prime suspect in the May, 30, 2005 disappearance of Mountain Brook teen Holloway on the Dutch island of Aruba. He was arrested and released in that case, and faces no charges. Flores told the AP in an interview at his home that the loss of his daughter may ensure that van der Sloot is punished for that death. "My daughter was an instrument for this girl (Holloway), so that there can be justice," he said. "He's going to have to talk now." Van der Sloot also now faces criminal charges in the United States of trying to extort \$250,000 from Holloway's family in exchange for disclosing the location of Holloway's body and describing how she died. U.S. prosecutors charged van der

Sloot with the crime on Thursday, saying \$15,000 was transferred to a Dutch bank account in his name. In the Netherlands on Friday, prosecutors acting on a U.S. request raided two homes seeking evidence in the case, seizing computers, cell phones and data-storage devices. President Alan Garcia told reporters on Friday that van der Sloot would have to be tried in Stephany Flores' death before any extradition request could be considered. A college business student less than a year from graduation, Flores was found late Tuesday in the Lima hotel room where van der Sloot had been staying since arriving in Peru on May 14 from Colombia. She was fully clothed, with multiple bruises and scratches on her body but no signs she had been sexually assaulted, Guardia told the AP. A tennis racket was found in the room "that could have been the murder weapon but that's so far not been proven," said Tejada. "My daughter resisted," Flores told the AP. "Under the fingernails of my daughter there are traces, evidence, that's why they didn't permit her cremation." Flores said he expected her to be exhumed for DNA testing, and Tejada said that was likely. □

The Kitchenaruba.com

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You may buy a bottle of wine or Champagne at the food store bodega, to go with your meal. Chef Sander who built The Kitchen himself is proud of his creation, a one of a kind food store, with the freshest ingredients, cooked a la minute, in a state of the art kitchen. The place is designed to cater to visitors who wish to



buy quality meals, and enjoy them in their own hotel room, and for busy locals who want to upgrade their daily lunch and dinner experience with some of chef Sander delectable combinations to go.

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Seared Tuna - Wakame - Soy Dressing	\$ 9.00

Salads

Grilled Vegetables - Coriander Cream	\$ 8.00
Greek - Feta - Olives - Tomatoes - Tzaziki	\$ 8.00
Caesar - Romaine - Parmesan - Croutons	\$ 8.00

Soups

French Onion, Tomato Basil, or Seafood Chowder	\$ 5.00
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Sandwiches - Wraps

Black Angus Steak Sandwich or Wrap	\$ 7.00
Grilled Chicken Breast Sandwich or Wrap	\$ 6.00
Black Angus Chuck Steak Burger	\$ 7.00

Sushi Rolls

Fried Shrimp, California, Spicy Tuna, Caribbean, Philadelphia	\$ 9.00
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Black Angus Tenderloin - Fire Roasted Peppers - Jus de Veau	\$ 13.00
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Surf & Turf - Tenderloin - Shrimp - Herb Butter & Lime	\$ 14.00
Grouper Milano - White Wine Sauce - Tomato - Mozzarella Gratin	\$ 10.50
Brazilian Moqueca - Seafood Mix - Coconut Bell Pepper Sauce	\$ 14.00

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Teriyaki Veggie Stir-Fry - Tenderloin	\$ 12.00
- Grouper Fillet	\$ 9.50
- Seafood Mix	\$ 11.00
All Entrees Are Served With Rice, Sautéed Potatoes, Stir-Fry Vegetables and Brazilian Black Beans.	

Pasta Dishes

Seafood Fettuccine - Grouper - Shrimp - Mix - White Wine Sauce	\$ 11.00
Farfalle Bolognese - Ground Angus Steak - Tomatoes - Mozzarella	\$ 9.50
Chicken Alfredo - Vegetables - Fettuccine - Mozzarella	\$ 10.00

Desserts

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The Public Prosecution explains

Aruba to cooperate with Peru if necessary

the Peruvian authorities want to have a view of this profile sketch they would have to go through official channels in order to determine which part they could view.

"The profile sketch is not intended for the public," Mr. Stein stressed.

Both Aruba and the Public Prosecution are again under the international attack for not having done enough to incarcerate Joran van der Sloot on the Natalee Holloway disappearance and possible murder. Taco Stein reacted by stating that it is important to realize the major differences in the two cases. But, the Prosecution in Aruba never gave up in trying taking Joran to court for prolonged detention. The latest try was in 2008, but the Judge had a strong argument that left little doubt behind. "The Judge rejected the petition

of the Public Prosecution based on the premises that the statements made by Joran van der Sloot gave little bases to arrest him again." In fact, the Aruba Prosecution determined that most of the statements were contradictory and despite exhaustive investigations, did not find any evidence to sustain any of the public comments made by the suspect. "Thus, the Public Prosecution in Aruba had no possibility to incarcerate van der Sloot."

The sad case in Peru could offer another possibility for Aruban authorities to re-interrogate van der Sloot, but only if during the questioning by Peruvian authorities, he could offer new information on the Holloway case.

The authorities here are also in cooperation with the US Justice system, regarding the US criminal case against

Joran van der Sloot in which he is accused of extorting Beth Holloway, in exchange of information where he buried her daughter. The Prosecution in Aruba was informed on the case, and was ready to offer any help, if the FBI requested this. Stein emphasized that this particular case is a US justice responsibility.

The Attorney General of Aruba recognized that US Justice authorities most probably will have to travel to Peru to question Joran van der Sloot on the matter. The same would be the case for Aruban authorities. "If he is deemed the main suspect in the murder of Stephany Flores, I am convinced Peru would not extradite him to Aruba. Especially in the absence of a treaty between Peru and The Kingdom of The Netherlands that could facilitate such

process.

Moreover, murder is such a serious crime, so it should be expected that the Peruvians themselves would want to convict him."

In the meantime, Beth Holloway accused the FBI for not having acted sooner and allowing Joran van der Sloot to travel to Peru, thus giving him the chance to allegedly kill again. Dutch authorities yesterday also invaded the home of 'Terror Jaap,' the person who interviewed van der Sloot last. There were indication of regular communication between the reviled winner of the reality program 'The Golden Cage,' and the suspect. His computers, USB's and other communication gear were all confiscated, as part of the investigation on the Holloway extortion. □

ORANJESTAD — The Aruba Public Prosecution is willing to cooperate with Peruvian judicial authorities in the criminal case against Joran van der Sloot in that country. According the Attorney General and spokesperson for the Prosecution in Aruba, Mr. Taco Stein, there has been no petition yet and it is difficult to imagine in what way Aruba could be of help.

Stein said the Natalee Holloway disappearance and alleged death is totally separated from the murder case of Stephany Flores in Lima, Peru. They have no correlation and the only common is the suspect, Joran van der Sloot.

However, Taco Stein said that there may be a possibility that the Peruvian authorities would like to have more information on the interrogation of Joran van der Sloot in Aruba. According to him, language and culture could come into play in such scenario, and here is where Aruba could help. "But, Peru would have to ask for the assistance though."

The Prosecution here has composed a profiling of Joran van der Sloot in the past. Yet, Taco Stein refused to elaborate on the profile, stating that this is still part of the criminal dossier in an ongoing case. If

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PALM BEACH -- Sharuska & Dolfy Geerman celebrated their 19th wedding anniversary at Amazonia Churrascaria in the company of their kids Caroline, Stacy & Nathaniel with invited other family members and friends. Hubert Solagnier, General Manager joined his staff in presenting congratulations and wishing the lovely family many more years of health and happiness.

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Chef Nelson Mendez presents a fantastic culinary experience



PALM BEACH – Celebrity Chef Nelson Mendez, from Venezuela, in collaboration with the Westin Aruba Resort culinary team, presented a delicious six course dinner on the final night of the Sixth Annual Art, Wine & Food Festival, on Saturday night, at an elegant gala evening titled Capturing the Champagne Sparkle.

The gala menu was inspired by the chef's Amazonian Cuisine Specialties and paired his exquisite dishes with Moët & Chandon and Dom Pérignon champagnes, provided by the Aruba Trading Company.

On the creative menu: Trio de Tierra, serving Foie Gras Tartelets topped with Mango Chutney, a shot of Crème de Apio and Bunuelo de Ucca, paired with Moët & Chandon Imperial. The second course titled Costa del Mar a la Huerta, followed with a Rissotto de Queso Amarillo, Mejillones, and Escargots. The beautiful plate called Recuerdo Hulandes, reflected on the island's Dutch roots with Herb Cured Salmon, Avocado Salsa, Guava Ginger Aioli and Passion Fruit Vinaigrette, paired with Moët & Chandon Nectar Imperial.



The fish dish, titled Del Caribe Al Exotico Amazonas served fresh local Grouper, Nicoise Olive Tapanade, Lychee Nuts over Mango Sauce, while the De Paso Por La Granja delivered an Entrecote of Angus Beef, with a Balsamic Cabernet Sauvignon and Red Fruit Reduction paired with Dom Pérignon. The dessert platter, artfully decorated by Nora, featured Pasion Natura chased by Moët & Chandon Nectar Imperial Rose.

The evening was perfectly

orchestrated by the Food & Beverage department and included a champagne reception to start, and a magical concert as the conclusion.

Pictured here, Capturing the Champagne Sparkle, organized by Nicole Martina, Aruba Trading Company, with the representative of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the world's leading luxury group, who provided the delicious French bubbly for the evening, for the past six years! □



HUMAN HINTS

Imagination Before Action

Our thoughts, emotions and actions create the world in which we live, but since we're aware only of our three dimensional expression, we instinctively use the world around us to dictate what is real. One powerful way to

turn this situation around, lies in our imagination.

Part of growing up is learning to not use your imagination, and this helps keep us locked into thinking that our environment controls us, instead

of the other way around. Now that we are growing beyond three dimensional limitation, we must learn to use our imagination to purposefully create our lives.

How do we begin to turn things around? We cannot shake the ingrained belief that we are products of our own environment, so let's use that indestructible foundation to our advantage.

When we check our bank account balance, we ask our three dimensional hologram to tell us how much money we have. We surrender our power of creation to our environment. At the same time, it is prudent and responsible to check your balance often, so how do we do that without giving our power away?

By using our imagination, we can change our attitude toward the action, before we take it. We can define and create the energy behind the action before we carry it out. This method is also a direct key to physical manifestation.

Before you check your account balance, imagine yourself going through the motions. When see and hear your balance, imagine it saying and displaying whatever

amount you want it to be. Better yet, imagine it telling you that you are financially abundant, so go have fun and don't worry. Focus on the way abundance makes you feel. Are you more relaxed? Your energy is now very different than before it felt abundance, so become aware of the difference.

Practice this exercise whenever you think about your account balance, and throughout the day if you're stuck in traffic or have 20 seconds of free mental time. When you set the energetic tone before taking physical action, you tell your three dimensional hologram what to project. You direct the intent and outcome of the action before it ever happens.

Imagine Dan Rather or Katie Couric interrupting the evening news to announce to the world that you are infinitely abundant and balanced in every aspect of your life. See your name on the Breaking News as it flashes across the screen. Hear them state your name with confidence as they declare your abundance and balance to the world.

This way, we are using our own belief system to validate that your desires are a reality. In our minds, we are setting

the energy of the hologram before it is physically played out. We are actively manifesting our lives.

Let your imagination run wild and have fun with this. Concentrate on the emotions that your fantasy world gives you, and bring those emotions back to your present situation.

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger
Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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PG-13	PRINS OF PERSIA	daily: 5:30	8:00	
	matinee: 12:30	3:00	late show: 11:00	
PG	SHREK FOREVER AFTER 3D	daily: 4:00	6:15	8:30
	matinee: 1:30		late show: 11:15	
PG-13	DEATH AT A FUNERAL	daily: 4:45	7:00	9:15
	matinee: 12:15	2:30	late show: 11:30	
R	SEX AND THE CITY	daily: 5:45	8:30	
	matinee: 12:00	2:45	late show: 11:30	
PG-13	IRON MAN 2	daily: 8:45		
	matinee:	late show: 11:30		
PG	STREET DANCE 3D	daily: 4:15	6:30	
	matinee: 2:00	late show:		

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PG-13	IRON MAN 2	daily: 9:00	
	matinee:	late show: 23:45	
PG	JUST WRIGHT	daily: 9:15	
	matinee:	late show: 11:30	
PG	LETTERS TO JULIET	daily: late show: 12:00	
	matinee:		
PG-13	ROBIN HOOD	daily: late show: 11:00	
	matinee:		
PG	SHREK FOREVER AFTER	daily: late show: 11:15	
	matinee:		
R	SEX AND THE CITY	daily: 6:00	
	matinee:	late show: 11:30	


Due to the Aruba International Film Festival, from June 4 till June 11, there is limited showing at Paseo Herencia. For more information regarding the Aruba International Film Festival, visit their web site: www.arubafilmfest.com

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The French Steakhouse delivers dining under the stars



Eagle Beach – The French Steakhouse at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa prides itself on the elegant dining experience it offers patrons. Reminiscent of a 1950s French café, the fully air-conditioned indoor dining room delights diners with its sparkling china, crisp linen, interesting bread baskets, and hand-painted tiles bordering the walls. A gracious staff, colossal desserts, and live jazz performed by Eddy Samson on piano add the perfect touches.

Yet recently the idea of adding a garden spot to the existing blueprint began to sprout in the creative mind of Executive Chef George Hoek, and he immediately recruited the landscapers to create the intimate, lovely setting. Now patrons have another charming dining option at the French Steakhouse—a tropical alfresco courtyard featuring delicious

cuisine under the stars. Diners can choose from the restaurant's famed "Ooh-La-La" menu offerings, including creative appetizers, soups, salads, seafood dishes, poultry, and the pièce de résistance—South American and USDA beef specialties.

Among other popular appetizers, the chef's Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple-mango salsa and the Teriyaki-Glazed Seared Duck Breast served with garden greens and balsamic dressing are real crowd-pleasers. The French Onion Soup is true to the restaurant's roots while the Honey-Glazed Salmon Salad winks at the exotic East with a sweet soy dressing.

Seafood dishes range from the fresh Catch of the Day, prepared according to preference, to the amazingly decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and Bacon. The tequila and sweet-chili glaze lends

the jumbo shrimp a pure taste of heaven!

Light eaters will find the Jerk-Curried Chicken Skewers and the Lemon-Herb Broiled Chicken very satisfying while meat-lovers should opt for the restaurant's famous South American Certified Beef Churrasco or a juicy USDA beef selection such as the Charcoal NY Sirloin Steak or the Grilled Filet Mignon. Hungrier patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-Course Menu featuring the run of the regular menu's highlights for just \$34.95 per person.

The French Steakhouse at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa offers a truly unique dining experience—indoor or out—7 days a week from 5:30 PM to 11 PM. For more information, please visit <http://www.manchebo.com/steakhouse/>

Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar reinvents beach cuisine

Eagle Beach – Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa is widely recognized as the home of beach cuisine. Executive Chef George Hoek and his culinary team serve a sun-splashed menu on the oceanfront terrace, raising the restaurant to must-try status. Inspired by American, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek, and Mediterranean kitchens, the menu lists favorite international dishes all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair.

Patrons can choose from a variety of tasty starters, like Wings on Fire and the Fiesta Snack Platter. Pega Pega's Sun-Sational Salads—including the Thai Chicken Salad and the Caribbean



Fruit Symphony—provide a light lunch alternative. From the sandwich board come the Cuban-Pressed Chicken Sandwich, the Grilled Grouper Reuben Sandwich, the Cudarebo Fish Taco, and the Philly Steak Sandwich. Mid-day platters also include vegetarian options and a variety of oversized beef burgers.

Pega Pega's tropical & frozen cocktail list leaves nothing

out. A wide range of frosty beverages—from daiquiris, coladas, margaritas, and fruit or ice-cream smoothies to specialty blends like the Yellow Bird, Sex on the Beach, and the Cabuya—pretty much guarantees the perfect refreshing addition to lunch. A daily happy hour featuring live music is a great way to watch the sunset and kick off the evening.

Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar is open on fabulous Eagle Beach every day from noon to 5 PM for lunch and from 11 AM to 11 PM for drinks. Patrons are cordially welcomed to enjoy the unrivaled views, caring service, and relaxed atmosphere of one of Aruba's oldest beach bars.



Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano introduces Menu Turistico



Eagle Beach -- Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano, located at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa in the heart of the low-rise hotel area, delivers authentic Mediterranean flavors at a reasonable price in a charming alfresco poolside setting.

The restaurant has just introduced Menu Turistico, a 3-course dinner featuring an appetizer, main course, and dessert for just \$19.95 per person, plus 15% service charge.

Patrons may choose between homemade soup and Caesar salad for the starter; between Fettuccini Alfredo, Lasagna Casarecia, Spaghetti alla Bolognese, and any favorite pizza for the main course; and between tiramisu, cheesecake, and ice cream for the sweet finale.

Of course, the regular menu

continues to offer delicious antipasto and salads, like the Calamari Fritti and the Insalati Bistro; hearty Italian soups; fresh fish dishes, including Salmone Affogaro in Bianco; pasta dishes, like the Tortellini alla Gorgonzola; pizzas; meat dishes, like the Fileto Di Bue alla Castellana; decadent desserts, such as the Cream-Filled Cannoli; flavorful coffees; and the finest Italian wines.

Executive Chef George Hoek is the resort's much-appreciated culinary expert. He was the recent recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Shoco Award, presented by the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association in collaboration with the Digicel Group. The award is a national award of excellence and Aruba's top professional decoration in the hospitality industry.

Open 7 days a week for breakfast and dinner, Giorgio's makes authentic Italian cuisine a reality on Aruba. Patrons are cordially invited to bring a healthy appetite.

Richard Gere meets the press on Aruba



Continued from Page B1

Aside from Gere and Bertolucci, other guests making the trek to the Caribbean island, 17 miles off the coast of Venezuela, include Arriaga, Martin Scorsese's long-time editor Thelma Schoonmaker and thesp Patricia Clarkson.

The Fest is backed by government funding and sponsor donations and is organized by Aruba Film Prods. Italian producer Giuseppe Cioccarelli and local filmmaker Jonathan Vieira are fest producers and Claudio Masenza is artistic director.



Aruba Festival films are: 3 Idiots, Rajkumar Hirani, India; Abel, Diego Luna, U.S.; Amsterdam, Ivo van Hove, Netherlands; A NY Thing, Oliver Lecot, U.S.; Barry Munday, Chris D'Arienzo, U.S.; Black Death, Christopher Smith, U.K.; Boy Ecury, Frans Weisz, Netherlands; Cairo



Time, Ruba Nadda, Canada/Ireland/Egypt; Christina, Larry Brand, U.S.; Cyrus, Jay and Mark Duplass, U.S.; Delhi 6, Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, India; The Secrets in Their Eyes, Juan Jose Campanella, Argentina/Spain; Hachiko, Lasse Hallstrom, U.S.; Happy Family, Gabriele Salvatores, Italy; Holy Rollers, Kevin Asch, U.S.; I Travel Because I Have to, I Come Back Because I Love You, Karim Ainouz, Brazil; Lucky Country, Kriv Stenders, Australia; Loose Cannons, Ferzan Ozpetek, Italy; My

Queen Karo, Dorothee van den Berghe, Netherlands/Belgium; Nanny MacPhee and the Big Bang, Susanna White, U.K./France/U.S.; Penso che un sogno così, Marco De Luca, Italy; A Question of the Heart, Francesca Archibugi, Italy; Sell Out, Yeo Joon Han, Malaysia; The Burning Plain, Guillermo Arriaga, U.S./Mexico; Venezia, Haik Gazarian, Venezuela.

The pictures show Film Festival participants on the red carpet prior to the viewings of the films being showcased.

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



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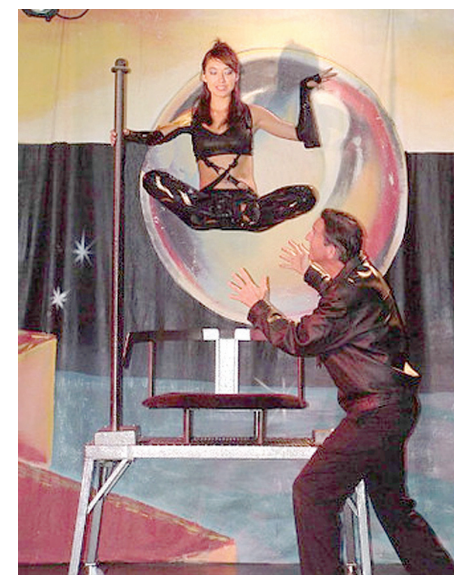
Butz, Belair, Maryland. 'MagicLive!...is Hip-Comedy Entertainment, Adam is the ultimate Modern Magician' -Jacque Polak, CBS-TV. Steinfeld sophisticated card-sharp street magic, mixed with grand theater illusions is a visual feast...this will be the highlight of your vacation. -Al Blanchard, mystery novelist, Boston, MA.

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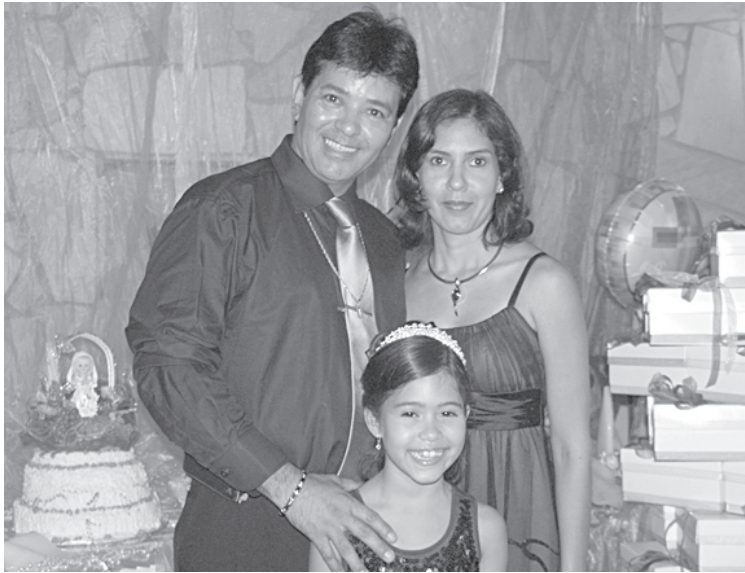
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Keely Shaye enjoys her Holy Communion party at El Gaucho Argentine Grill



ORANJESTAD – Keely-Shaye, 8, daughter of Debbie Gonzalez and Kenneth Giel, enjoyed the company of family members, including grandparents on both sides, and family and school friends for her First Holy Communion Party at El Gaucho.

Troubadour Etty Toppenberg entertained on his guitar, as party-goers celebrated the



important day, and Keely-Shaye's first mass experience at the San Francisco church,



earlier in the day.

Great food and beautiful decorations, over music and much fun, contributed to the ambiance, unfolding at El Gaucho's private dining room. □



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Yahoo's site mirrors Facebook in latest facelift



A Yahoo! billboard is seen in New York's Time's Square January 25, 2010....

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE,
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Yahoo Inc.'s latest facelift will include a Facebook touchup. As part of changes rolling out this week, Yahoo will import personal updates from Facebook's social network for users who want a bridge between two of the world's most popular websites. The Facebook link will need to be turned on by each Yahoo user. The personal updates, known as a "news feed" in Facebook's parlance, will be available throughout Yahoo's website, including its front page and e-mail service. Other tools will empower people to automatically let their Facebook friends know what they are doing and saying on Yahoo services such as its photo-sharing site, Flickr. The additional tie-ins follow

REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

through on a makeover that Yahoo announced late last year in an effort to make its website more compelling. Although Yahoo still commands a worldwide Internet audience of nearly 600 million, people have been hanging around for progressively shorter periods during the past few years. One of the reasons is because people increasingly congregate on Facebook to share photos, video clips and music, discuss current events and bond with their families and friends. Yahoo, based in Sunnyvale, Calif., is betting that more of its visitors will stay on its website if they can simultaneously monitor what's happening on Facebook. Keeping people on its site longer would give Yahoo more opportunities to sell online ads and revive its revenue growth after an

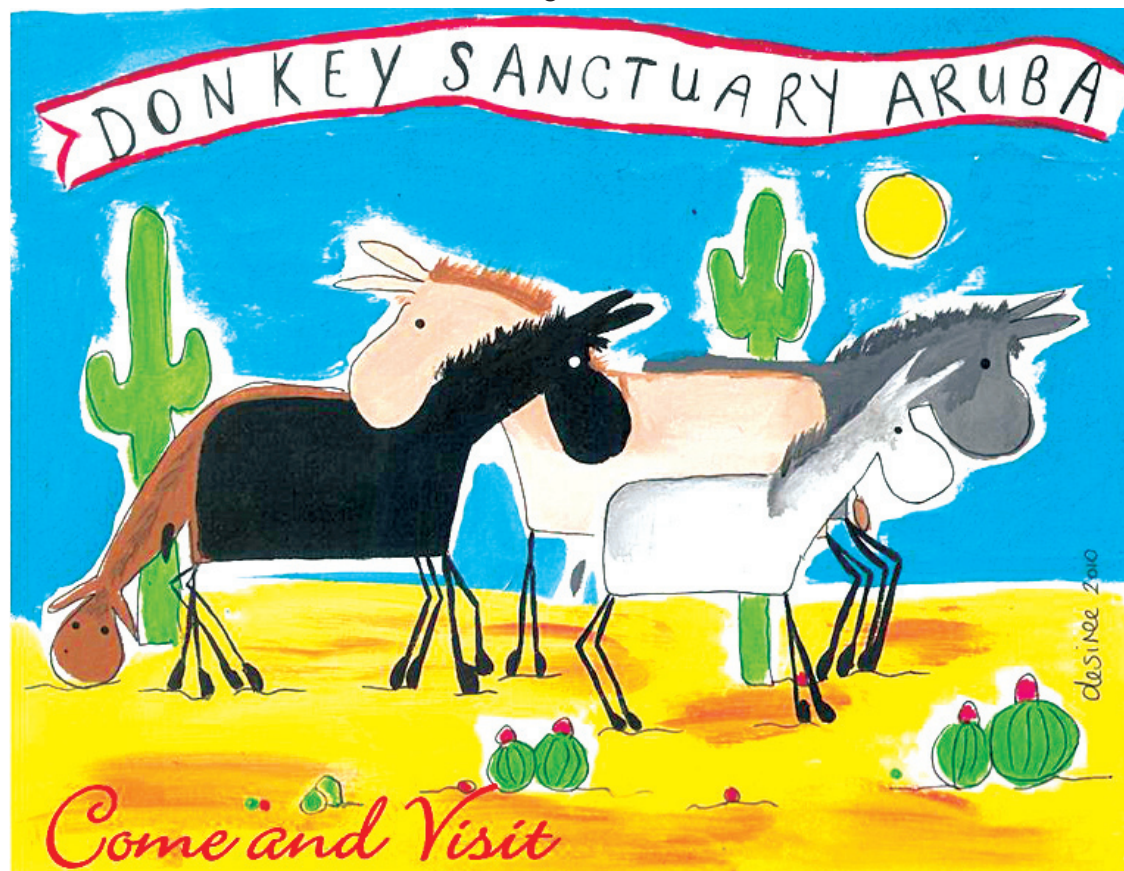
extended slump that has sapped its earnings power and stock price.

Connecting with Facebook is just the first step in Yahoo's attempt to establish its website as a social hub. Later this summer, Yahoo intends to import personal updates posted on Twitter's short-messaging service. And by the end of the year, Yahoo will begin featuring widely played Internet games such as "Farmville," "Mafia Wars" and "Fishville," made by Zynga.

The increased emphasis on so-called "social media" could make Yahoo more susceptible to the privacy backlashes that have plagued Facebook in recent years. Yahoo is trying to ensure people don't inadvertently share any sensitive information by simplifying its privacy controls and urging visitors to review their settings.

As part of that process, Yahoo's identify control center has been renamed "Yahoo Pulse." It had been called Yahoo Profiles since its October 2008 debut.

The Facebook alliance is just the latest example of Yahoo's growing reliance on partnerships since the company hired Silicon Valley veteran Carol Bartz 17 months ago. Yahoo's search engine is in the process of adopting Microsoft Corp.'s technology.





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Birds frozen in oil: image of a desperate summer



A bird is mired in oil on the beach at East Grand Terre Island along the Louisiana coast on Thursday, June 3, 2010. Oil from the Deepwater Horizon has affected wildlife throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

(AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**,
AP Science Writer

They are the ghastly images of a summer fouled before it started. Squawking seagulls and majestic brown pelicans coated in oil. Click. Gunk dripping from their beaks. Click. Big eyes wide open. Click. Even the professionals want to turn away. They can't.

"They get me. It's just inherently sad," said Nils

Warnock, a wildlife recovery specialist. "You see this bird totally covered in oil and all you can see are those eyes looking at you blinking. You'd have to be pretty tough not to be affected by that image."

Warnock didn't see the birds in person. He's in California, but the pictures still hit him in the gut. Warnock has been rescuing birds in oil slicks since 1985 and he still chokes up when talking about photos

of birds he hasn't seen in person.

Now put yourself in Melanie Driscoll's shoes. She doesn't just see the pictures. She sees the birds close-up through her bird conservation work for the National Audubon Society across Louisiana. The pleading eyes get her, too.

Driscoll has to shut down her emotions while helping coordinate the rescue of the birds. But the feelings sneak back at night, keeping her awake, making her see oily blackness creeping across her cats and even across the moon when she looks up.

When environmental groups try to tug at the public's heart and wallet, they focus on what biologists call "charismatic megafauna." It's the feathered or furry helpless critter that you can relate to. It's not the oiled hermit crab — an image joked about as not very touching by Jon Stewart on "The Daily Show" Thursday night.

It's got to have eyes that melt your heart. And that's what's all over the nation's front

pages now.

"The pelican has really become the poster child for this that people are really focusing on," Driscoll said.

"The bird is the symbol. They are visible. They are charismatic."

Up in Alaska, where it has been 21 years since the Exxon Valdez spill, residents watching the images of oiled birds are turning off their TV sets because it is just too hard to see, said Nancy Bird. She is director of the Prince William Sound Science Center, which still monitors the effects of the 1989 spill.

"I just wish that somebody would put them out of their misery very quickly," she said. "Watching an animal like that die a slow death is pretty disturbing."

The birds seem frozen in oil. The image is apt.

Birds that get oiled can die from being too cold, or too hot, because the crude oil interferes with the natural oils that make them waterproof. That means their sensitive skin is exposed

to extremes in temperature. Even in the relatively mild Gulf waters, they can "die from hypothermia," said Ken Rosenberg, director of conservation science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. They can also drown.

The brown pelican, the state symbol of Louisiana, is now also the symbol of death — not just for the birds in the pictures, but for the likely thousands unseen.

"If you're seeing oiled birds, we can assume that there's a lot of death going on," Rosenberg said. "They literally are an indicator of what's going on in the entire ecosystem."

Some species of birds, especially those that lurk hidden in marshes — such as the clapper rail, seaside sparrow and mottled duck — will not be photographed coated with oil. They'll just disappear sight unseen, Driscoll said.

"Those birds won't get their eulogy," Driscoll said. "They'll just disappear. It's an unseen tragedy." □

Meditation Dulls Experience of Pain

Charles Q. Choi

People who regularly meditate apparently find pain less unpleasant, because their brains are busy focusing on the present and so anticipate the pain less, blunting its emotional impact, a new study reveals.

Meditation is becoming increasingly popular as a way to treat chronic illness, such as the pain caused by arthritis. To better understand how it works, scientists recruited 12 volunteers with a diverse range of experience with meditation, spanning anywhere from no experience to decades. The kind of meditation practiced varied across individuals, but all included "mindfulness meditation," which trained them to sustain focus on the present.

Zapping participants

The researchers used a laser to zap the skin on the right forearm and induce pain in each participant. They also monitored brain activity as each participant anticipated and experienced pain.

The scientists found those with more meditation experience - up to 35 years - found the pain less unpleasant than meditators with less experience, while no corresponding age effect was seen among non-meditators.

Also, before each laser zap, brain activity suggested the more experience volunteers had meditating, the less they anticipated pain. Specifically, people who meditated showed unusual activity during anticipation of pain in part of the prefrontal cortex, a brain region known to be involved in controlling attention and thought processes when potential threats are perceived.

"The results suggest that meditation doesn't change the raw sensory experience of pain, but rather reduces the emotional response that occurs when pain is anticipated," researcher

Christopher Brown, a cognitive neuroscientist at the University of Manchester in England, told LiveScience. "This in itself appears to be enough to reduce the unpleasantness of the experienced pain, even though the sensory experience is unchanged." "Meditation trains the brain to be more present-focused and therefore to spend less time anticipating future negative events," Brown added. "This may be why meditation is effective at reducing the recurrence of depression, which makes chronic pain considerably worse."

Experiencing the raw sensation of pain can be useful - "for example, when exercising pain is useful to alert you that you might be over-exerting yourself and damaging the body," Brown explained. "Rather, it's the unpleasantness of the pain and the emotional consequences of that - for example, anxiety and depression - that need to be reduced. That's what meditation appears to selectively target."

How meditation changes the brain

It remains uncertain how meditation changes brain function over time to produce these effects.

"One might argue that if a therapy works, then why should we care how it works?" said researcher Anthony Jones, a neurorheumatologist at the University of Manchester in England. "But it may be surprising to learn that the mechanisms of action of many current therapies are largely unknown, a fact that hinders the

development of new treatments. Understanding how meditation works would help improve this method of treatment and help in the development of new therapies."

"There may also be some types of patient with chronic pain who benefit more from meditation-based therapies than others," Jones added. "If we can find out the mechanism of action of meditation for reducing pain, we may be able to screen patients in the future for deficiencies in that mechanism, allowing us to target the treatment to those people."

The importance of developing new treatments for chronic pain is clear, Brown said. "Forty percent of people who suffer from chronic pain report inadequate management of their pain problem," he noted.

Unfortunately, the study doesn't conclusively prove that meditation is responsible for the reduced perception of unpleasantness and the reduced anticipation of pain. "Other factors may have influenced the results - for example, there may be already something different about people who take up a meditation practice," Brown said.

The ideal way forward would be to conduct a study in which a group of non-meditators take up meditation, "and they are monitored over a number of years to see if their perception of pain and the neural processing of pain changes," he said. "However, those studies are very challenging because of the long time periods involved - judging from our data, it could require six years before significant changes occur that are measurable. A high drop-out rate from such long-term studies would be expected." □

Perú: Hija de Fujimori segura que disputará presidencia

LIMA (AP) - La legisladora Keiko Sofía Fujimori, hija del encarcelado ex presidente Alberto Fujimori, expresó su seguridad en que disputará la segunda vuelta presidencial en los comicios del 2011.

Keiko, de 35 años, líder del partido político Fuerza 2011, y quien figura en segundo lugar en las encuestas de intención de voto, afirmó que de ser elegida presidenta, será ella la que gobernará y tomará las decisiones, y no su padre en prisión, como especulan sus críticos.

“Yo estoy preparada para gobernar y puedo decir con seguridad que sí estaré en segunda vuelta”, aseveró en una entrevista al diario El Comercio, publicada el domingo.

Aunque aún no han confirmado oficialmente sus candidaturas, se encuentran entre los potenciales candidatos presidenciales el alcalde de Lima, Luis Castañeda, favorito en las preferencias electorales, el ex presidente Alejandro Toledo, y el líder nacionalista Ollanta Humala.

Keiko Fujimori, quien alcanzó la más alta votación en las elecciones parlamentarias del 2006, declinó responder cuando El Comercio le preguntó si indultaría a su padre de llegar a convertirse en mandataria, como afirmó hace

unos años.

Asimismo, negó que busque ser presidenta con la única intención de liberar a Fujimori, condenado a 25 años de cárcel por dos matanzas perpetradas por un comando de aniquilamiento del ejército en los primeros años de su gobierno, y sentenciado también en otros tres procesos por delitos de corrupción.

La legisladora dijo que su objetivo de llegar a la presidencia es luchar contra la pobreza, y afirmó que será implacable contra la corrupción.

“La corrupción nos atacó horriblemente (en el gobierno de Fujimori), pero hemos aprendido de nuestros errores.

¿Qué garantías doy? El compromiso personal de que seré implacable”, sostuvo la congresista, quien enfrenta las sospechas de que Fujimori habría financiado sus estudios universitarios en Estados Unidos con dineros del estado, lo que ella niega.

Alberto Fujimori gobernó autoritariamente Perú por una década hasta que un escándalo de corrupción que comprometió a su entonces asesor y hombre de confianza Vladimiro Montesinos, provocó la caída de su gobierno en noviembre del 2000. □

Unos 10.000 fieles participaron en la procesión del Corpus Christi en Lima

Lima (EFE).- Alrededor de 10.000 fieles católicos participaron hoy en Lima en la procesión del Corpus Christi, que sirvió además de cierre al Primer Congreso Eucarístico y Mariano de Lima.

Congregados en el Campo de Marte de la capital peruana, los asistentes pudieron seguir la ceremonia en vivo y a través de varias pantallas gigantes, así como participar en una misa solemne ofrecida por el cardenal de Lima, Juan Luis Cipriani sobre un gran escenario levantado para la ocasión.

Precisamente, el cardenal Cipriani aprovechó la ocasión para hacer una petición especial por las familias peruanas, y las autoridades políticas y sacerdotales del país.

Los fieles entonaron durante toda la procesión, que duró algo más de una hora, cantos y rezos, mientras enarbolaban pancartas y soltaban globos blancos y amarillos hacia el nublado cielo limeño.

El Primer Congreso Eucarístico y Mariano de Lima se inició el pasado 29 de mayo, día en el que se realizó un “encuentro mariano” en el atrio de la Basílica Catedral de Lima, y en el que participaron miles de limeños.

Dentro de este congreso también se realizó el Simposio Teológico Internacional, que contó con la participación del Perfecto de la Congregación para el Culto Divino y la Disciplina de los Sacramentos, el cardenal Antonio Cañizares. □

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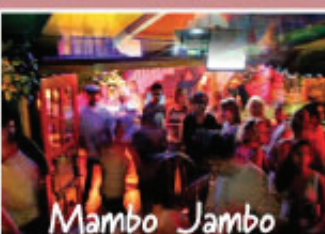
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